

**SEMINOLE COUNTY GOVERNMENT
AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

SUBJECT: Legislative – Draft Agenda 2007

DEPARTMENT: County Manager's Office / County Attorney's Office

AUTHORIZED BY: Cindy Coto **CONTACT:** Susan Dietrich Lisa H. Spriggs **EXT 5731**
EXT. 7172

Agenda Date 1/23/07 **Regular** **Consent** **Work Session** **Briefing**
Public Hearing – 1:30 **Public Hearing – 7:00**

MOTION/RECOMMENDATION:

None Required – Staff update on issues related to the 2007 state legislative session

BACKGROUND:

On November 7, 2006, The Board established its "top legislative priorities" and "funding request list" to guide the County's lobbying activities for the 2007 legislative session. The 2007 State Legislative Priorities for Seminole County were presented to the Seminole County Legislative Delegation on December 11, 2006. The County's "Community Budget Issue Request" forms (CBIRs) were submitted to the County's Lobbyist for distribution. Staff will provide an update of the status of support requests.

In addition to specific County issues identified by the Board and staff, the County's legislative efforts also focus on statewide issues in conjunction with Florida Association of Counties (FAC), other legislative priorities from our municipal partners, the school board and other regional partners.

State

- Regular Session – March 7, 2007 to May 4, 2007
- State Lobbyist – Brantley and Associates, Tallahassee, Florida

Update Topics:

- Support of Funding Requests
- Property Tax Reform
- County Preemption / Selection of Outside Lobbyists
- DRI Adequate Housing Rule (Rule 9J-2.048)
- Other Topics / Updates

Separately Distributed:

- State Legislative Priorities for Seminole County Government
- Florida Association of Counties 2007 Legislative Program
- NACo 2007 Adopted Legislative Priorities

Reviewed by:
Co Atty: _____
DFS: _____
Other: _____
DCM: _____
CM: Coe
File No. Leg 44

State - Top Legislative Priorities

Local

- SUPPORT funding for driver education programs for young adults.
- SUPPORT legislation giving counties the authority to implement a Local Option Rental Car Surcharge Tax for transportation related improvements.
- SUPPORT legislation that gives all charter counties the authority to implement the Charter County Transit System Surtax. SUPPORT current statutory authority giving counties the discretion to distribute these revenues to municipalities pursuant to an interlocal agreement under F.S. Chapter 163.

State Funding Requests

Pedestrian Overpass (Howell Branch Road & SR 426)	\$	7,000,000
Cross Florida Greenways Trail (Seminole County/Winter Springs)	\$	3,500,000
State Road 46 - Regional Evacuation Route (SR 415 to US1)	\$	8,000,000
Sweetwater Cove - Tributary to the Wekiva River	\$	200,000
Museum of Seminole – Education Multi-Purpose Program Building	\$	500,000
Regional Alternative Water Supply Program	\$	2,000,000

A. Pedestrian Overpass (Howell Branch Road & SR 426) - \$7 Million

Request - \$7.0 million to construct a pedestrian overpass at the intersection of Howell Branch Road and State Road 426. The project serves as a regional trail/pedestrian link between Seminole and Orange Counties. It was approved by the Metro Plan Orlando Board in 2004 as part of the Long Range Plan 2025.

Recently, the County has completed the south link of the Cross Seminole Trail, which terminates at the Orange County Line. Orange County will be tying into this section of the trail which will provide a connection to the downtown Orlando Area. The trail serves both recreational and commuter users. In Seminole County it intersects with SR 426 and Howell Branch Road. Approximately 50,000 cars a day pass through this intersection. The pedestrian overpass will enhance the safety at this intersection. The total cost of the project is \$7.0 million for design, right-of-way and construction. Neither the County nor the State has funds at this time.

B. Cross FI Greenways Trail – Seminole County/Winter Springs - \$3.5 Million

Request - \$3.5 million to develop the Cross Florida Greenways Trail in Seminole County/Winter Springs. The Cross Florida Greenways Trail is part of a planned connection to Orange County and a regional trail system connection to the Seminole County trail system and eventually part of the Florida National Scenic Trail System. The section of the trail in which the County is seeking funds is in Winter Springs between Layer Elementary School and Old Sanford/Oviedo Road. The project was approved by the Metro Plan Orlando Board in 2004 as part of the Long Range Plan 2025.

The trail serves work, recreational and school access purposes. It also is a “mission link” for a multi-county trail and; therefore, is significant in terms of need and importance. The total cost of the project is \$3.5 million. The County can contribute \$500,000 to this project.

C. State Road 46 – Regional Evacuation Route (SR 415 to US 1) - \$8 Million

Request - \$8.0 million to develop State Road 46 from SR 415 to US Highway 1. The funds sought would cover the project development and environment phase of this project, which expands State Road 46 to 4-lanes from SR 415 to US Highway 1 in Brevard County. Widening State Road 46 would significantly improve travel on a regional basis and provide an upgraded hurricane evacuation route. The total cost of the project is \$120.0 million. The project in Seminole County was approved and adopted by the Metro Plan Orlando Board in 2004 as part of the Long Range Plan 2025.

The County expects the funds to be provided by the Florida Department of Transportation which would be the agency to implement the project since it is a State roadway and serves traffic on a regional basis. As an evacuation route, it directly serves Orange, Seminole, Volusia and Brevard Counties. Indirectly, it would serve as a primary or secondary route for other coastal Counties along the east coast of Florida.

D. Sweetwater Cove – Tributary to the Wekiva River- \$200,000

Request - \$200,000 for hydraulic dredging to remove 55,000 cubic yards of sediment and provide stormwater treatment that will reduce nutrients in Sweetwater Cove, and which discharges into the Wekiva River. Nutrient reductions from this project will include a 34% reduction of nitrogen and 50% reduction of phosphorus. These treatment removal rates are in line with the draft Wekiva River and Rock Springs Run pollutant load reduction goals, August 2006, developed by the St. Johns River Water Management District. The project has been identified in the Restoration Plan for Sweetwater Cove.

Sweetwater Cove is a tributary which discharges directly into the Wekiva River, just downstream from Wekiwa Springs State Park. Sweetwater Cove is a 23 acre interconnected lake system. It has a watershed of 1,150 acres, which has minimal stormwater management facilities in a heavily urbanized area. This project will supplement the Sweetwater Creek and Tributary Erosion Control Project constructed in the fall of 2005, which installed weirs, wetland plantings and a sedimentation basin upstream of Sweetwater Cove.

E. **Museum of Seminole County History – Education Multi-Purpose Program Building - \$500,000**

Request - \$500,000 in grant funding through the Florida Department of State, Florida Arts Council, Cultural Facilities Grant Program to provide support in funding the renovation, construction, or acquisition of cultural facilities. Seminole County Government has submitted an application for the construction of the Museum of Seminole County History – Education Multi-Purpose Building in the amount of \$500,000 with county support of the project at \$1.5 million for a total project cost of \$2.0 million.

On the first level, the Museum of Seminole County History – Education Multi-Purpose Program Building will feature large pieces of farm equipment; space for receiving and processing new artifacts; and a holding space for traveling exhibits until they are assembled and displayed. The second level will be used for research and lecture spaces. All research and reference materials (i.e. books, micro-film reader and cabinet, maps and cabinet, computers, conference room tables and chairs) will be relocated to the new building, increasing available exhibit space in the original building. Also on the second floor will be meeting and lecture space for educational programs. At a 100-person capacity, this space will accommodate programs such as summer camp presentations for students, cultural and historical lectures, and other educational programs for both students and adults.

F. **Regional Alternative Water Supply Program - \$2.0 Million**

Request - \$2.0 Million to assist in the design of the Yankee Lake Regional Surface Water Facility for augmentation of the reclaimed water system to offset potable ground water demands. The project will serve the Northwest/Northeast Service Areas of the County as well as provide resources to the Seminole, Lake Mary, and Sanford Tri-Party Re-claim System. St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) has determined, through studies conducted since the mid-1990's that the withdrawals from the Upper Floridian aquifer may result in adverse environmental impact. This project will help us meet the St. Johns River Water Management District regulatory controls along with possible grant funding from SJRWMD up to a maximum \$12.0 million for construction.